



Project Support

Strengthening rural livelihoods and food security through improving village poultry production in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia

In July 2009, the International Rural Poultry Centre (IRPC) of the KYEEMA Foundation was given a one-year grant by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) to continue project activities in Mozambique, Malawi and Tanzania, and to set up a new program in Zambia for Newcastle disease (ND) control in village chickens. The project aims to increase village poultry production in project areas to contribute to food security and poverty alleviation.

The purpose of the project is to strengthen the capacity of the Governments of Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia to develop and implement efficient and sustainable ND control and village poultry extension programs to improve the welfare of rural communities.

This project focuses on a program that works towards:

- Strengthening the capability of, and relationship between, stakeholders in order to successfully implement ND control programs; and
- Achieving a decrease in chicken mortality rates caused by ND in project areas.

The project approach includes four components:

1. Community: to develop effective and sustainable community participation and ownership of ND control activities.
2. Communication and education: to provide effective training, education and awareness-raising of relevant community members, community vaccinators, NGOs, extension and veterinary staff in relation to ND control, HPAI preparedness and poultry husbandry.
3. Vaccine and vaccination: to provide technical inputs required to support the ongoing development of an effective and sustainable ND control program in Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania; and the establishment of local production and quality assurance of I-2 ND thermotolerant vaccine at the Central Veterinary Research Institute (CVRI) in Zambia including laboratory vaccine trials and vaccine field trials in project target areas.
4. Effective project management: to manage the project efficiently and effectively and in accordance with AusAID's standards.

The implementation of activities is focusing on an integrated program encompassing institutional strengthening of the Government livestock sector and NGOs, and promoting rural community

participation and ownership of the ND control program. Technical assistance will be provided by the IRPC of KYEEMA Foundation, whose specialists have over 20 years of experience in Newcastle disease control and improving village poultry production in Africa and Asia.

Experience has shown that a sustainable ND control program is composed of five essential components:

- An appropriate vaccine and vaccine technology;
- Effective extension materials and methodologies that target veterinary and extension staff as well as community vaccinators and farmers;
- Simple evaluation and monitoring systems of both technical and socio-economic indicators used by both communities and supervising agencies;
- Economic sustainability based on the commercialisation of the vaccine and vaccination services and the marketing of surplus chickens and eggs; and
- Coordination of activities.

An ethos of “seeing is believing” and “learning by doing” has been adopted by the project team to ensure the communities themselves and collaborating NGOs will apply practical and sustainable solutions to improve food security and nutrition.

The central thread and ultimate success of this project will be the sharing of knowledge, innovation and resources. This will be done on many different levels, though most importantly it will be achieved by strengthening community networks towards self-reliance by building both knowledge and internal and external linkages to improving village poultry production.